

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the attached replacement sheets for the sheets containing Figs. 7, 8, and 9 of the drawings as originally filed.

Figs. 7, 8 and 9 have been labeled "Prior Art".

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the allowance of Claims 18-23.

Figs. 7, 8 and 9 have been labeled "Prior Art" to address the objection to the drawings.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), independent Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been amended more particularly to recite certain distinctive features of the invention. At least as presently amended, Claims 1, 7 and 11 distinguish patentably from U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042331 to Ikehashi et al. (Ikehashi), which constitutes the basis of the outstanding rejection.

Claim 1, for example, recites that the controller used to generate the control data held in the nonvolatile storage means is formed on one semiconductor substrate together with the voltage generation means and the nonvolatile storage means, and that the operation for obtaining the relationship and an operation for determining the control data are determined by a program executed by the controller.

Ikehashi, on the other hand, fails to disclose execution of a program for determining the above-recited

operations by a controller on the same semiconductor substrate as a voltage generation means and a nonvolatile storage means thereof. Rather, the operation of a controller of Ikehashi (control circuit 25) is based on commands and control signals supplied from a source external to the semiconductor chip on which the control circuit 25 is disposed (see Ikehashi, paragraph [0123] and [0124]).

Independent Claims 7 and 11, which recite a processing circuit rather than a controller, have been analogously amended and distinguish patentably from Ikehashi, as will be appreciated from preceding remarks.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikehashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,412 to Ishikawa et al. (Ishikawa). However, Ishikawa does not cure the deficiencies of Ikehashi, and therefore the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should also be withdrawn, and the application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and

has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

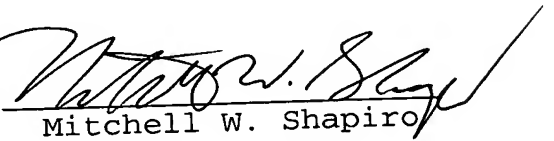
Respectfully submitted,

MWS:PLS:dmt

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